

The cholera epidemic does not seem to be decreasing as some of the members of the Sanitary Board tried to make out at the last meeting. We hear that this week about 90 fatal cases have occurred. The last victim to this terrible disease is Mr. P. Piron, teacher of singing, piano, &c. He had been suffering a little from diarrhoea during the last day or two, but was able to attend to his duties. He returned home yesterday evening about six o'clock, after his teaching work was finished. At seven o'clock he was taken rather suddenly ill and got gradually worse. At nine o'clock his condition was so serious that medical aid was sent for at once. It was, however, then unavailing, and he died about 3 o'clock this morning. Deceased was well known in Hongkong, and the news of his sudden death will be heard with deep regret in musical and other circles. He took an active interest in the Musical Club from its foundation, and lent his valuable aid on many occasions to the Choral Society, of which, if we remember rightly, he was at one time conductor.

A BAD OUT-LOOK FOR THE DOLLAR.—An Australian contemporary says:—The output of silver at the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine has exceeded all previous records, having exceeded 60,000 ounces for the past week. An arrangement has been made with the Dry Creek Smelting Works, under which they have contracted to smelt the iron ore, and it is expected that this will add an additional 10,000 ounces to the output.

A CHRISTIAN paper, the *Herald*, thus describes a Mohammedan festival:—The 3rd day of the 6th moon (12th June) being the Mohammedan New Year, at daylight all the Mohammedans of Sunkien Fu (the Prefecture City of which Shanghai is a dependency) assembled at the Mosque outside the West Gate where the Koran is read and thirty-three recitations are performed during this day, they visit the Mosque where they all kneel and pray, having carefully before leaving their homes, performed the prescribed ablutions, and dressed themselves in clean clothes. The Mohammedan Calendars differ from our Chinese in these points, that the first day after the appearance of the new moon is made the first of a new month; long and short months alternately succeed each other. There is no intercalary month, but after the end of the twelfth month six days are added to complete the year, which is ordinarily composed of 355 days. The last month of the year the days were spent in fasting, and the nights in religious observances, no food being taken until the moon comes out. By this curious practice they believe that they avert evil from themselves.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE AT TIENTSIN AND TAKU.—For many years past the North of China has been free from earthquakes of an alarming character. But on Wednesday (13th inst.) the residents of Tientsin and Taku, and also Chetso, experienced a shock the violence of which is unprecedented in the memory of the oldest foreign resident. At a quarter to five o'clock in the afternoon there was the first severe shock, Taku and Tientsin experiencing it at the same time. It lasted one minute and a half, and was so bad at Taku that it was difficult to stand without support. The walls of several of the houses were cracked, the paper peeling from them, and the cement fall from the ceilings. Three chimneys fell in mass, and ornaments from the mantelpieces and brackets were destroyed. The shock at Tientsin was less violent, and no serious damage was reported, but the foreigners left their houses for safety. The sensation on the steamers moored at the Bund was similar to the vibration of the engines going full speed ahead with the ship ashore. This severe shock was followed by thirteen others of a slight nature, and the entire population were in an alarmed state, the ladies at Taku performing to live in boats on the river rather than stay in their houses. At a quarter to two o'clock on Thursday afternoon there was a second serious trembling at Taku, which caused great excitement, and our correspondents say that the Chinese predicted another severe one at half-past four. Several of the Chinese houses in Taku were full completely, and some of the walls of the Government dock also collapsed. At Chetso the violent shock of Wednesday was felt, but no damage was done; and it is a coincidence that at the time very rough weather was experienced in Shanghai and outside Wosung.—*Shanghai Courier*.

"Why Do I Live?" was the title of a poem which an author sent to an editor. "Because you don't deliver your communication personally," was the answer the editor enclosed with the returned MS.

"Patrick, do you know you talk too much!" "O do, sor," "Well, if you'd make it an unvarying rule to keep your mouth shut, don't you think you'd get along better?" "Faith, sor, I'd starve to death, sor."

A Philadelphia barber displays a sign which announces that he is "proprietor of facial decorating saloon, tonorial artist, physiognomical hairdresser, and facial operator, cranium manipulator, and capillary abridger."

"My dear friend, how were you able to acquire such an immense fortune?" "By a very simple method." "What method is that?" "When I was poor I made out that I was rich, and when I got rich I made out that I was poor."

"Wise, now, John, tell me candidly why an old bald-headed man like you should want to go to the show to-night?" "Well, I'd like to see the ballet girls, if you must know." "But I can't imagine why you should want to go." "You can't? Why, I want to see the handsome old gentlemen who occupy the front seats."—*London Journal*.

Hiss church rector (in New York)—I have concluded to abandon the confessional. Yesterday I said, "This is so much of Rome." "No, that isn't it; but no one ever comes to confess except women, and I can't waste three hours every day listening to unmeaning stories."—*Omaha World*.

Dumxley—Do you know anything about Grimesby, Brown? He asked me to lend him \$100 this morning. Brown (laughing unrepentantly)—"How, law, law? Asked you to lend him \$100? Well, will it? If I had Grimesby's vein of humor I wouldn't be in the fish business. He is a funny dog."—*New York Sun*.

FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.—That it is an instructive sign of the times when "Murmurs" are not deemed strong enough to give expression to the public feeling in Hongkong.

That I heartily and sincerely welcome the advent of your contributor who writes over Two Stars, although he has gone a step beyond me, and deeply growls, while I am content to murmur only.

That I shake hands cordially with the Growler, and in doing so express a hope that the growling and the murmuring alike may be indulged in solely for the public good, and with no other possible end or aim.

That the opening meeting of the new Sanitary Board was like water to a thirsty soul, the yearning spirit referred to being the hitherto unrepresented community of this Colony.

That there can be no doubt that the Gladiator (Mr. Francis, Q. C.) was right in the position he took up at that meeting, and if Mr. Price is permitted to fool around with the house-drains before the Government drains and mains are ready, residents will be apt to lose patience and "cut up rusty."

That if Mr. Price is wise he will carefully remember the caution given by the Secretary of State as to consideration and forbearance and refrain from trying to press the obvious provisions of the Public Health Bill down the throats of an unwilling community, at least before he is ready to do his part.

That anyone who has studied the history of this Crown Colony for even a few years must know that the distinction between official and non-official interests is as sharply drawn as anything well can be. That even granting that the greater part of our officials are honest and of good report, their ideal of the public interests is necessarily different from that of the community, while their methods of realising that ideal are sometimes anything but agreeable to our identical with the views of the public.

That the unusual routes followed by Mr. Price to reach the public have often done a great deal to weaken confidence in official ways, and draw a hard line between officialdom and the body of taxpayers.

That the bungling of weak officials tends to produce a similar result.

That the electors are not quite pleased with the old-fashioned views expressed by Mr. J. D. Humphreys, and would like to know whether these views have been accurately set forth in the papers.

That while much care and mastery inactivity may well be devoted towards the useless provisions of the new Public Health Bill, no one (not even the Chinese) over dreamt of objecting to the clauses which relate to pure and simple cleanliness being rigidly carried out.

That I cannot believe that Mr. Humphreys meant to convey the impression that he was perfectly satisfied with things as they are, and yet what can even an ordinary Special Juror make of his words if that be their meaning?

That the prescription lists of the various Dispensaries, if compared with those of former years, would no doubt prove instructive in the matter of sickness.

That, speaking of the official and non-official element in the Sanitary Board, it would be interesting to know who arranged the seats round the horse-shoe of the Legislative Board-room.

That it was curious to note that the learned Q. C. was, so to speak, taken into custody, and guarded by the two lusty Knights of the Executive—Captain Deane and Mr. Price.

That although the Gladiator for the moment must have felt that he was metaphorically seated between the "Devil and the Deep Sea," this circumstance did not seem to be much of a novelty for the fighting Member, to judge by the amount of free discussion to which he gave rise.

That the amiable Mr. Wong had for his guide, philosopher and friend the genial Protector of Chinese.

That the face of the worthy Acting Chief Justice (Hon. J. Russell), when the verdict of the Special Jury was given acquitting the three alleged murderers, was an interesting physiognomy study.

That the Special Jurors who were not called, and the community generally, were very much surprised at and dissatisfied with the verdict in this Taku Lane Murder case.

That those who are inclined to agree with the acquitting Jurors are all the more never upon the Police for the bungling manner in which they conduct such cases.

That the perpetrators of the numerous murders which have been committed here during the last six or eight years have almost invariably gone unpunished, and there must be a reason for this.

That as a matter of fact our Police, though a very fine body of men, and fairly efficient preservers of order, are either lamentably deficient in detective power, or the system is wrong somewhere.

That now the dangerous element know that they are comparatively safe from the more serious punishments of the law, they will be encouraged to work their lawless will.

That it seems strange that the experiment of appointing a Public Prosecutor and Assistant Attorney General will be tried in Chinese has been never tried in this Colony.

That during the defence of the prisoners in the case mentioned above, Mr. Francis stated authoritatively that common law is essentially common sense.

That this legal, like other aphorisms, requires to be taken with a considerable amount of chloride of sodium.

That the leader-writer of your morning contemporary must have been wool-gathering when he penned his remarks on the stoppage of work in the Harbour on Sunday.

That the Heathen Chinese, through their Customs, put a stop to Sunday working, and were I a skipper I would almost pray that Hongkong might be inflicted with a Gusto House.

That though you may differ from the opinions of your morning contemporary on this question of Sunday labour, your strictures upon the "originality" of his arguments were rather unkind, for, seeing that the columns of local papers—your own included—occasionally contain nothing original outside of the advertisements.

That it is to be hoped that the Governor and his Council will earnestly consider Mr. Goldsmith's proposition, and adopt it, if there be no good reason shown to the contrary.

That I am quite sure other nationalities affected would make no objections, if only an unyielding law affecting all alike were passed, and I am told that the reply of German captains, when asked to sign the petition, has always been, "No, this is your Colony; you make the laws; we will obey them, as we have every confidence in your judgment and spirit of fairness to all."

That I hear the Macao community are up in arms over an indignity offered to the colours of Portugal by the Misao Steamboat Company making use of them when doing honour to bridal parties or on other like occasions.

That if the inhabitants of the Holy City were to turn their attention to dredging the Harbour, or some other work of utility, instead of bothering over the flunkings of their National Flag, they would find it much easier to convince outsiders of their patriotism, and prove themselves worthy of their direct descent from Mr. Vasco da Gama.

That surely a special Providence must watch over the interests of Tientsin if it be true that a Koochow dealer has realised \$6000 profit on two chops.

That I should like to have a stake in such business.

That seeing what was expected of buyers this season, the delighted seller is probably quite within the limits of truth when he says the Chinese language ain't enough to express his astonishment and delight at the unlooked-for result.

That if only that foreign man too much curio.

That a Shanghai wit has defined *ipso* as the present tense of *ipse*.

That much inconvenience has been caused to the community by the non-delivery of local letters, and I am sure this has only to be brought to the notice of Mr. Travers to have the thing rectified.

That the Admiralty and War Department are being put through their paces by the public, and it is to be hoped the turn of the Colonial Office will come next, so as to cure its propensity to do the wrong thing because the wrong view is usually taken by interested officials and backed up with Service arguments.

BROWNE.

THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN COOLIES.

Before Mr. Scroomb Smith, in the Police Court to-day, in the former, Chin Pau, coolie, and Koi Kwai, runner, were charged (1) with bringing certain persons into the Colony for an unlawful purpose and (2) with taking certain persons out of the Colony for an unlawful purpose. Mr. Dennis appeared for the first defendant.

Leung Yit, one of the complainants, said—*I am a farmer in Shek-lung and came to Hongkong on the 18th inst. I came with first defendant. I met him in a plantation at Shek-lung. There were about twenty of us there and I heard him say, 'If you go to Kiang you can get \$10 a month. I will pay your expenses there and see to your tickets.' I heard no one object to his proposals. All were willing to go and so was I. We went to Canton and from that by steamer to Hongkong. We were taken to the Yan Wo Chan boarding-house. We were well treated there. I went there with the intention of going to Kiang. The ship was to sail on the 20th, but on the 19th we were told to go on board. Before going on board I asked the first defendant for my ticket. He said 'It has already been passed and need not be passed again.' He did not give me a ticket. I never appeared at the Harbour Master's Office. We got as far as to go on board a sloop. I wanted the first defendant to go along with us to Kiang, but he would not. The second and third defendants came with us to the wharf. Some of my fellows had already entered the sloop, but I went back to fetch the first defendant who had promised us in Shek-lung to accompany us to Kiang. I found him and asked him to come on board with us. He eventually came. Before I went to fetch him a sloop had sailed some of my countrymen. When the first defendant heard of this he went with me to the station, where I saw a crowd of my fellows who would not go off. The first defendant was then arrested along with the second and third. While we were*

in the Yan Wo Chan we were allowed to go out, if we liked. I was told I was being taken to Kiang. I was not willing to go as no paper had been produced which had passed the immigration officer. I heard that it was necessary for us to pass the immigration officer.

Another of the complainants made a similar statement.

In the first defendant, said—I belong to the mine in Kiang. The proprietor is an Englishman. My younger brother is a foreman. I was taking the complainants there to work. They were to be shipped on the 20th, but as there was a steamer a day sooner I asked them to go with it, which they agreed to do. I got 32 tickets including one for myself at the Kwong Fuk Cheung shop, 103 Wing Lok street. None of the complainants went to the Harbour Master's Office. No tickets were given to them, but I was about to give them. I have never been to the Harbour Master's Office.

The third defendant said he had nothing to do with the complainants. He was an intending emigrant and was going with the others to Kiang.

His Worship dismissed the case.

FORMOSA.

Kamau, 12th June, 1888.

On the 1st instant we had another very heavy thunderstorm from the west, lasting about two hours, but doing no damage; the rain was very heavy, and it continued to the evening of the 9th inst., holding up at short intervals; we had during the time, counting fourteen hours rain, a fall of nearly 15 inches. For twenty-four hours, from the 3th to the 9th, the large quantity of rain inches fell. Such late heavy rains have not been known for many years.

At this time of the year we generally have our dry summer season, when only short showers are experienced. This heavy rain has caused strong freshets, and for days the vessels in port did not swing to the flood. On Saturday, 9th instant, the steamers *Formosa* and *Feo-chu* left for Hongkong, and sailed along the coast, the holding ground in Tamsui harbour being very bad. The telegraph steamer *Feo-chu*, which arrived here from Huihow and Hongkong on the 6th inst., after discharging her railway material, left for Kiang, via Kuluang, and will return again, being chartered to make three trips between Kuluang and Amoy with coal, bringing general cargo from Amoy.

The weather to-day is fine and clear, real summer weather, although rather hot after the rain. The thermometer registered to-day 88° in shade.

Vessels in port *Pu-pu*, *Wai-ting*, *Johann*, and *Mormosa*. The latter left to-night for Amoy, with a full cargo of coal, and the *Johann*, via Kuluang, will leave to-day for Shanghai.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

THE CHINESE IN AUSTRALIA.

LATEST DETAILS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Adelaide, 22nd May.—Sir Henry Parkes' Chinese Amendment Bill passed through the New South Wales House of Assembly, after a fifteen hours sitting, by thirty-one votes against eighteen. The Legislative Council, however, refused to admit its urgency by a vote of twenty-four against eight, because it was not the voice of the people, but only the outcome of a panic, as a confident that he will secure the Royal assent to his Bill.

It is probable that the intercolonial conference will be held immediately. Sir Henry Parkes proposed at first that the conference should limit its proceedings to the discussion of the representation to be made to the Imperial authorities; he consequently withdrew that limitation, but refused to withdraw his Chinese Amendment Bill.

The Supreme Court in Sydney has issued fifty writs of *habeas corpus* for the release of Chinese passengers detained at the Customs and the Court holds that the Government has no right to exclude foreigners.

The released passengers were landed early on Monday morning to avoid any public demonstration against them.

On Friday last Mr V. L. Solomon addressed a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council, in the Town Hall, on the Chinese question. He complained bitterly of the Government action in reference to the Chinese in the Northern Territory, particularly with reference to the optional labour charges to the contract to land and the action of the Palmerston and Pine Creek Railways.

He declared any desire or intention to treat the Chinese in any un-English way, but insisted that it is imperative to legislate to restrict their immigration into the colonies.

In the course of his remarks he styled Sir Henry Parkes a political madman, and stated that his ill-considered action would only injure the anti-Chinese cause.

The New Zealand House of Representatives has passed an anti-Chinese Bill, restricting the immigration of Chinese into New Zealand.

The London Standard thinks that the colonies are now strong enough to settle this question among themselves.

The Times says that any legislation having for its object the exclusion of Chinese from Australia, would be imprudent and that in the attempt to force the Marquis of Salisbury, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to negotiate towards that end with the Imperial authorities at Peking, Australia has irritated China, and that it will probably cause her to demand a heavy indemnity from Australia, for the unjust treatment that has been meted out to the Chinese subjects in the colonies.

The Chinese Minister in London considers Sir Henry Parkes' action as cruel, and eminently calculated to provoke the authorities at Peking into retaliatory measures.

Adelaide, 24th May.—Sir Henry Parkes has sent a cablegram to Mr. Henrich Heaton, M.P., the member for Australia, saying that he is supported in his action on the Chinese question by nine-tenths of the people of New South Wales, and that the Legislative Council is certain to pass his Chinese Amendment Bill.

The Governor of South Australia, Sir W. C. F. Robinson, has received a cablegram from the Secretary of State, approving of the action of the colonies in the Chinese question, and their offer to telegraph the subjects for discussion.

The Chinese passengers per *Burramah* have been allowed to land in Melbourne on the payment of the poll-tax.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales has decided that any Chinese tendering payment of the amount of the poll-tax has a right to land in Sydney.

The Sydney *Lampers* and *Seamans' Union* are agitating for the substitution of the European crew for Chinese in vessels trading between China and Australia.

Mr. G. R. Dibbs, M.P., proposed a vote of want of confidence in Sir Henry Parkes. Sir Henry replied in a stirring speech, in justification of his Government's action, characterising the opposition, who objected to being bold and daring, and under the leadership of Victoria, whose language on the Chinese question, and to the Imperial authorities, he stigmatised as hypocritical.

May 23, 7.06 p.m.—The members of the Adelaide Seafaring Seamen's Union have arranged to boycott the Chinese, and all vessels employing them.

The New South Wales Government is seeking leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Supreme Court.

In consequence of a threat having been made by the Government that the *s.s. Adelaide* would be prosecuted for carrying Chinese passengers in excess of her tonnage allowance, she sailed from Sydney on Sunday for Hongkong.

It was intended that the *s.s. Tipton* should leave on the same day for Hongkong, but owing to some of the passengers having been detained at the Customs in Newcastle, and the captain served with a subpoena.

The captain of the *Afghan* is similarly detained.

The *s.s. Gudrie* is still at Newcastle. The *s.s. Chantrel* was released from quarantine in Sydney to-day.

The New Zealand Government has refused to give the Union *S. S. Company* permission to carry Chinese to that Colony.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall, Adelaide, on Saturday night, under the auspices of the Trades and Labour Council, when it was resolved that immediate united action is necessary to restrict Chinese immigration into the colonies, and that the various colonial Governments should simultaneously impose a poll-tax of £100, and a residential tax of £250 on Chinese.

The Governor has refused to support the action of the Government in respect to the proposed conference, which has been fixed to be held in Sydney, on June 12th.

Mr. V. L. Solomon, the delegate from the Northern Territory, was the principal speaker.

The various religious bodies and denominations throughout the colonies sympathise with the Chinese, who, they say, have been unjustly treated.

Adelaide, 31st May.—A late Governor of Queensland has written to the London Times, and says that European cannot perform the work required in tropical Queensland, and that the Chinese are qualified to undertake it.

The Premier has been persistently telegraphing to Sir Henry Parkes, to induce him to fix the date of the Conference on the Chinese Question.

The Governor has cabled to Lord Knutsford, asking him to state the points that require special consideration.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales has released fifty of the Chinese passengers per *s.s. Tipton*, *Wai-ting*, and *Gudrie*.

The judges think that the Government should obey their ruling, without the necessity for further individual applications.

The second reading of the Chinese Restriction Bill has been carried through the New Zealand Legislative Council, by fifteen to ten.

Sir Henry Parkes' Chinese Bill is meeting with strong opposition in the Legislative Chamber; the debate has been adjourned.

A deputation of the Adelaide Clergy has waited upon the Premier, and deprecated his action as being an infringement of the holy scriptures.

The Premier (Hon. T. Playford), in reply, stated that the object of the impending conference is to meet the difficulty by a treaty.

June 5th, 6.36 p.m.—The Chinese Amendment Bill has been passed by the Upper House in New South Wales.

The House of Representatives in New South Wales, will not be represented at the intercolonial conference on the Chinese question, and has decided to limit the benefits of naturalization papers to the colony by which they were issued.

Four of the Adelaide Working Men's Unions are boycotting the Chinese, and their employers.

A telegram which has been received from the Imperial Government states that the colonies may legislate to restrict Chinese immigration, and believes that the friction and difficulty may be overcome by a treaty with China, on somewhat similar lines, to that between the United States and China.

The *Moscow Gazette*, in commenting upon the position assumed by the British colonies towards the Chinese, advises Peking to seek the assistance of Russia in settling the question.

June 7, 9.5 p.m.—Further suits are pending in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, to compel the Government to allow Chinese to land on payment of the poll-tax.

The Sydney Bench complains that the Executive are knowingly disregarding the law, and the Judges are of opinion that if the applicants for permission to land are illegally deprived of their liberty, and should take life in attempting to defend themselves, that it would be justifiable homicide.

Sir Henry Parkes, in referring to this subject in the Assembly, resented these statements, and stated that the Government is only answerable to the Parliament, and through them to the people.

Ninian Melville said that the first drop of European blood that was spilt by the Chinese would be the signal for a general rising to expel them.

It has not been stated that all the colonies will be represented at the Conference on the Chinese question.

HOME NEWS BY AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The *s.s. Tipton* arrived yesterday evening with the Australian Mail. We take the following telegrams from our contemporaries:—

THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA.—London, May 22.—Intelligence is to hand from Paris to the effect that the Government has entered into agreements with the Messageries Maritimes, the Eastern and Transatlantic Company for the purchase of the largest steamers of the two fleets to be prepared for instant equipment as auxiliary cruisers. A commission has been appointed, and is now sitting, to decide on the class of armament to be placed on board the cruisers.

Complying with a recent suggestion made in the German official Press, Austria has largely reinforced her troops on the Galician frontier.

Three distinguished German generals, after an audience with the Emperor of Austria, have gone on an official visit to Galicia for the purpose of inspecting the Austrian military arrangements.

London, May 22.—The Austro-Hungarian semi-official organ, the *New Free Press*, in its issue to-day contains an article on the situation in Europe, in which it is announced that the Allies (i.e., Austria, Germany, and Italy) are determined to keep Russia within her bounds, and will fight that war, if possible, in order to secure peace for Europe.

It is stated that leading Armenians, both in Armenia and Constantinople, being disgusted with the situation created by England in dealing with Turkey in the matter of the reform in the government of the province of Armenia which were guaranteed under the Treaty of Berlin, and many times promised but not yet introduced, have appealed to France to compel the Porte to introduce the long-withheld reforms.

Adelaide, June 6.—The London and Paris press, after the Emperor of Austria, Hungary, and Germany with trying to create a panic, with the purpose of increasing the strength of their standing armies, probably with ulterior intentions.

June 7.—Austria has removed the edict prohibiting the export of horses from that country.

AQUATICS.—London, 27th May.—In a rowing match on the Tyne yesterday, Buxton beat Carr by four lengths.

INCREASING THE NAVY.—London, 26th May.—Addressing the London Chamber of Commerce last night, Admiral Hecoby declared that 144 additional ships were required.

Lord George Hamilton, First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at Derby last night, stated that the Government had arranged to increase the navy by 40 per cent annually.

COLLAPSE OF THE FRENCH METAL MARKET.

Adelaide, May 20.—It is feared that the "Société des Métaux," the French syndicate that has been controlling the metal markets recently, will collapse. It is stated that the Société lost £200,000 by the recent fall in the tin market.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH COLONIZATION.—M. Florentin, the Foreign Minister for the French Republic, in speaking on the comparison of the French and English methods of colonization, considered the French system as better than the English, and stated that while the French conciliate the natives, the British cheat them.

THE LATE EMPEROR AND THE DIER.

Adelaide, June 6.—The Emperor Frederick III, in the presence of the Emperor of Austria, has been reported to have said that it is probable therefore that it will be dissolved.

AN ALLEGED FIAT.—Adelaide, June 5.—It is reported that an Austrian plot to murder Prince Bismarck and the Crown Prince William has been discovered.

THE EXERCISES AND THE PAPAL DECREE.—Adelaide, June 5.—The Roman Catholic Bishops have resolved to accept and preach obedience to the Papal decree, in so far as it affects the morals of the parishioners, but without any reference to political matters.

MISERABLE SCENES IN THE S. S. W. ASSEMBLY.

Adelaide, 5th June.—There has been another disgraceful scene in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Buchanan, in retorting to a statement of the Premier's, said that Sir Henry Parkes had, during a long life, systematically robbed his neighbours, and in his old age he had become a criminal maniac.

This statement elicited a storm from both sides of the House.

McElhenny, whose arrest was ordered for riotous behaviour in the Assembly last week, has apologized. His apology was worse than the offence. He has since been released on account of his temperance.

INCREASED TAXATION IN TASMANIA.

In consequence of the expenditure of the Tasmanian Government, having largely exceeded their income it has become necessary to greatly increase the taxation.

It is proposed to impose a higher tariff all round on imports, and to increase the land property taxes a halfpenny in the £.

It is also proposed to float a loan of £1,000,000 at three and a half per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

